

Remarks

Applicant requests reconsideration and allowance of the present application in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks.

Claims 80-93 are pending in the present application. Claims 80, 86-88, 92, and 93 are the independent claims.

Claims 80, 86, and 87 have been amended. No new matter has been added.

Initially, claims 80-87 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph, as allegedly containing subject matter which was not adequately described in the specification. In response to this rejection, the Examiner is respectfully directed to FIG. 29 (specifically steps 705-710) and page 91, line 4 - page 92, line 15 of the specification for support for “wherein when production is not performed for the particular image, identification information of the particular image is stored in a memory,” as set forth in independent claims 80, 86, and 87.

Claims 80-87 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,111,659 (Murata) in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,862,297 (Timmermans). In addition, claims 88-93 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Murata in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,243,171 (Haneda). These rejections are respectfully traversed.

Independent claims 80-87, as amended, recite, inter alia, that when reproduction is not performed for the particular image, identification information of the particular image is stored in a memory. As noted in the Office Action, the primary citation to Murata does not disclose this feature. The secondary citation to Timmermans teaches

that when picture parameter data is no longer in compliance with a user's wishes or is incorrect, either 1) new picture parameter data or 2) information about the desired changes to the picture parameter data is stored on the recording medium. (Timmermans, col. 10, lines 36-56). However, the picture parameter data of Timmermans only comprises data for performing optional picture processing operations on picture information and for displaying representations of the digitized picture information. (Timmermans, col. 5, line 65 - col. 6, line 1). Thus, this information differs from the identification information recited in each of independent claims 80, 86, and 87.

Accordingly, without conceding the propriety of combining Murata and Timmermans in the manner proposed in the Office Action, such a combination still fails to teach or suggest Applicant's invention as set forth in claims 80, 86, and 87. Therefore, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of claims 80-87 under 35 U.S.C. §103 is respectfully requested.

Independent claims 88, 92, and 93 each recite, inter alia, that "the recording medium stor[es] a plurality of reproducible images and a reproduction instruction file containing instruction information including a plurality of file names specifying images to be reproduced" and that the "recording medium accessing unit accesses the recording medium ... so as to specify an image to be reproduced." The Office Action also acknowledges that the primary citation to Murata does not disclose these features.

The secondary citation to Haneda teaches a laboratory system for use in executing a method of managing film images comprising a film reader for converting an image from a film that has been developed to original digital image data representing the

image, a recording unit for storing on a user's recording medium (i) the original digital image data obtained by the film reader or (ii) reduced digital image data obtained by reducing the original digital image data, and a laboratory recording unit for storing the original digital image data obtained by the film reader, on a laboratory's recording medium. (Haneda, col. 4, lines 45-56). When images are to be printed, the digital image data is read out from the laboratory's recording medium or from the film reader. (Haneda, col. 5, lines 14-17). Haneda also teaches that the laboratory system can include a reader for reading order data from the user's recording medium. (Haneda, col. 5, lines 30-39).

However, the user's recording medium from which order data may be read is not the same as the recording medium from which the plurality of reproducible images and a reproduction instruction file are stored, as recited in independent claims 88, 92, and 92. Instead, Haneda teaches storing the plurality of reproducible images and the reproduction instruction file on different recording media.

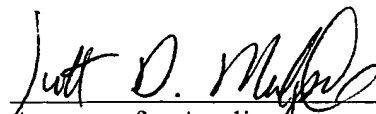
Accordingly, without conceding the propriety of combining Murata and Haneda in the manner proposed in the Office Action, such a combination still fails to teach or suggest Applicant's invention as set forth in claims 88, 92, and 93. Therefore, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of claims 88-93 under 35 U.S.C. §103 is respectfully requested.

For at least the foregoing reasons, Applicant submits that the independent claims patentably define the present invention over the citations of record. Further, the dependent claims should also be allowable for the same reasons as the base claims from

application is in allowable form. Favorable consideration of the claims and passage to issue of the present application at the Examiner's earliest convenience earnestly are solicited.

Applicant's undersigned attorney may be reached in our Washington, D.C. office by telephone at (202) 530-1010. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below listed address.

Respectfully submitted,



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